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NO. 4255.

WEATHER—PARTLY CLOUDY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1918.

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53 AGE LIMIT IF NECESSARY, SAYS CROWDER

Under Certain Conditions Would Include Men of This Age in Draft.

BAKER NOT COMMITTED

Chamberlain Waits Secretary's Action—"Work or Fight" Adds Few.

Provost Marshal General Crowder said last night he will recommend that the draft age limits be extended to a minimum of from 18 to 45. Under certain conditions he will draft men as old as 55. He made it plain, however, that as Provost Marshal General, he would not initiate legislation looking to this end.

If a move is made for the proposed change, the general said, it will have to come from Secretary of War Baker, or Congress act independently of the War Department in adopting an amendment to the selective service act providing for the extension.

Gen. Crowder's official views on the subject will not be given until he is formally called upon either by Secretary Baker or by a committee of Congress.

Secretary Baker stated yesterday that he had not made any recommendation to Congress that the draft age limits be changed, and that he would not recommend such action at this time. The matter is strictly up to Congress, the Secretary declared.

Baker does not object. If Congress decides to put into effect the proposed extension, the War Department will offer no objection, the Secretary said.

The Navy Department objects to lowering the draft age to 18, it became known yesterday. Secretary Daniels believes such action would seriously interfere with the recruitment of the necessary number of men to complete the proposed increase in the navy personnel. The navy gets its men through voluntary enlistments, and it is believed by the department that this enrollment would be hampered by making boys between 18 and 21 subject to draft.

The Senate Military Affairs Committee has not yet taken any action upon increasing the age limit. Senator Chamberlain said once more yesterday he had not received any suggestions from Secretary Baker upon the matter.

Efforts to determine the order numbers of the men who were registered on June 5 now is tentatively set for Friday of this week. Delay of local boards in completing their reports to the War Department will be produced by the re-issuing of the deferred classifications, recently ordered. This number would be gained if each local board should report the number of registrants out of classes 2, 3 and 4. One board already has added 150 to Class 1 by re-examining questionnaires and registrants themselves.

"Work or fight" order is not expected to produce many fighting men. Reports from all parts of the United States show that nearly every man who "expects" to be caught under this regulation will seek productive employment, rather than run the risk of being ordered into military service.

"The effect of the 'work or fight' order has been electrical," it was pointed out by the War Department. "Local boards report that loafers, idlers and men in non-productive employment are scurrying to war industries and other productive work."

BULGAR CO-ALITION CABINET.

New Plan Said to Indicate Sharp Internal Dissent.

Basil, via Paris, June 19.—M. Malinoff has been called upon by King Ferdinand of Bulgaria to form a coalition cabinet, according to German advices.

The fact that "a co-alition cabinet" is to be formed in Bulgaria, seems to confirm rumors that the resignation of Radoslavov, as Premier, was the result of sharp internal dissent. It is understood that the cabinet is split into two camps, one bitterly hostile to Germany and aiming at Bulgaria's emancipation from German domination, the other favoring even closer union with Berlin.

RIFLE SUPPLY ABUNDANT.

Production Capacity Equal to Arming All Men.

In the belief that Congress will order an army of at least 4,000,000 by the end of the year, the Ordnance Department has prepared new rifle delivery schedules which will guarantee the arming of the new men as soon as they reach the training camps.

In addition provision will be made for arming 1,000,000 members of Home Guard units. Already about 10,000 rifles of the Ross type formerly used by the Canadian army, and an equal number from the 500,000 rifles manufactured for the Russian government, and owned now by the United States, have been allotted to New York State troops.

HOOVER TO VISIT ENGLAND.

Will Be Guest of Nation, London Cable Report.

London, June 19.—The Press Bureau tonight announced that Herbert C. Hoover, the American Food director, will arrive sometime during the next few weeks. Mr. Hoover, the announced says, will be the guest of the nation.

Food Crisis For Austria Now Acute

Bread Ration Cut to Two Pounds Weekly—How Can Workmen Live, Asks Vienna Paper.

Austria's food situation has reached a crisis. Bread rations have been cut to two pounds a week.

The food crisis is becoming more and more serious. There is a lack of everything that is necessary. The situation is serious in Vienna and even more in the provinces, where even the promised short rations are denied the people. The culminating point of the crisis and the privations is approaching. The government is endeavoring to reduce the rationing, but it cannot live on such sparse rations. And unfortunately they often fail to receive the allotted rations.

WHITE HOUSE PLATFORM AT INDIANAPOLIS

President's Hand Seen in Planks on National Problems.

The platform adopted by the Democrats of Indiana yesterday is a definite outline of the principles to which the National Democratic party will be committed as long as President Wilson is its recognized leader, it is said. This is supported by the authoritative information that the features which deal with national problems were written at the White House.

Democratic Representatives and Administration supporters are agreed the document will serve its purpose as an effective reply to the platform adopted by the Indiana Republicans only a few days ago.

The sections attributed to the President begin by emphasizing that it is the duty of the National Democratic party to win the war and to secure the peace. The fate of true democracy is declared to depend upon its being won. The war policy is set forth with the positive declaration:

"We shall not abandon it until our objectives are attained. Concerning the period immediately after the war when all conditions of economic life must undergo readjustment, we also recognize that the period of the war. We recognize that the war must be followed by a period of reconstruction, to whose problems it will be necessary to devote the best and most liberal minds of the country should be devoted. Those problems will wear a new aspect and significance. They must be approached with regard to old party catchwords, formulas or possessions, in full recognition of the fact that they are now and must be dealt with in a new way.

"Our duty is to develop as possible vocational training as possible taken, particular attention being given to the rehabilitation of those who have been in one way or another disabled or deprived of their opportunities. Opportunities for their industrial employment should be sought and found and they must be equipped to take advantage of those opportunities.

"And not in their case alone must the sympathetic aid of the Federal Government be given. It must be given also to the allocation of labor, the development of its skill and the creation of proper labor conditions. Such services must be made to be made to raise the whole level of labor conditions and facilitate the improvement of its preparation and training.

"We must seek to avoid in the future the conflicts between capital and labor which have too frequently in the past, and must seek to do so by measures of co-ordination such as we have hitherto not attempted. The establishment of the country and all important task whose successful working out is a condition precedent to harmonious democracy. Provision must be made for the settlement of all questions upon the basis of fairness and right.

"The whole industry of the country must be dealt with in the most liberal and enlightened manner. Raw materials and all universal essentials, like coal and electricity, must be made accessible to all upon equal and equitable terms. The natural resources of the country must be developed where they have been neglected or development delayed. New industries must be fostered and the barriers removed which have stood in the way of the development of the country and the one thought of the nation which is the industrial process by which the industrial prosperity of the country may be secured by methods which will absolutely exclude monopoly.

"Railway transportation must be controlled in such a way as to assure complete co-ordination, adequate development and the equal service of the railways in every field of economic activity of the country must be developed in such a way as adequately to supplement and, wherever advantageous, parallel the transportation systems of the railways.

"The Federal Government has become an imperative necessity, and the Legislative and Executive branches of the government should work together for its benefit.

"There must be a single test standard for every public policy. Every measure must be put to this test: Is it just? Is it for the benefit of the average man without injury to the individual? Does it in fact embody the highest conception of social justice and of right dealing without regard to person or class or special interest?"

"The platform included in the platform are understood to all meet with the approval of the administration.

BARNS GO OWN FOR MEXICAN LABOR TO COME

U. S., in Need of Workmen, Waives Immigration Law.

RIGID RULES GOVERN Men Must Put 25 Cents a Day in Postal Savings.

Secretary of Labor Wilson last night laid down the bars to immigration from Mexico. In a departmental order exemptions are allowed from the head tax, literacy test and contract labor provision imposed by previous regulations. The order is effective today.

In a statement announcing the order, Secretary Wilson says the decision to permit the entry into the United States of illiterate and other classes of labor was reached in order to assist in meeting the present shortage of unskilled labor. Labor imported under this rule can be used only in agricultural, mining, stock raising, maintenance and lignite coal mining. The order will be revoked when the present emergency has passed, and the men imported will be required to return to their own country.

Must Let U. S. Save Part Pay.

An additional assurance that they will leave the United States at the end of the war it is provided in the new regulations that all Mexican laborers at the time of their admission shall open a postal savings account for the purpose of entry. Employers shall then withhold from each workman's wages 5 cents for each day's service, which will be deposited to his credit in the local postal savings bank, available to him only when he leaves the country. After the account reaches \$10 only \$1 a month will be withheld.

The plan is now being considered by the War Labor Board and the War Industries Board. The Railroad Administration and the War Department will probably enter the negotiations before any complete formula is reached. The plan is likely to follow classification of the priorities board for preferential treatment by government agencies in the production, supply and distribution of raw materials, finished products, electrical energy, fuel and transportation by rail, water pipe line and otherwise.

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REJECTED HAM IS SADDLED ON CAMP KITCHEN

Buyers of 500 Tons or More to File Statement.

Users of coal in amounts of 500 tons or more annually were warned yesterday that they must fill out their questionnaires, or be in danger of having their supplies cut off.

"And not in their case alone must the sympathetic aid of the Federal Government be given. It must be given also to the allocation of labor, the development of its skill and the creation of proper labor conditions. Such services must be made to be made to raise the whole level of labor conditions and facilitate the improvement of its preparation and training.

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Raid Locked 21 German Destroyers

British Coup at Bruges Also Bottled Up Several Submarines, Commons Is Told.

London, June 19.—Twenty-one German destroyers and several submarines are hemmed in the Bruges docks and canal as a result of the recent British naval blocking operation against the German U-boat base on the Flanders coast.

Announcement to this effect was made in the commons yesterday by Thomas J. McNamara, Parliamentary secretary for the admiralty. He said the operations have proved more successful than had been supposed.

MAY CONTROL LABOR SUPPLY, FOR INDUSTRIES Priorities Would Be Same as for Raw Materials.

Establishment of labor priorities in industry may be the next step in organizing America to win the war. Conscription of labor has been fought, both by the government and by labor, but it is felt in high government quarters that some step toward affording the necessary supply of labor must be taken soon.

The plan is now being considered by the War Labor Board and the War Industries Board. The Railroad Administration and the War Department will probably enter the negotiations before any complete formula is reached. The plan is likely to follow classification of the priorities board for preferential treatment by government agencies in the production, supply and distribution of raw materials, finished products, electrical energy, fuel and transportation by rail, water pipe line and otherwise.

The classification was: (1) Ships, (2) aircraft, (3) munitions, military and naval supplies and operations, (4) fuel, (5) food and collateral industries, (6) clothing, (7) machinery or other necessary transportation equipment, (8) public utilities.

The early assignment may be expected to come from the floating fund of the navy, but it is possible there may come, if necessary, some arbitrary readjustment of employment. It is hoped that the latter may not become necessary. It is pointed out that the arbitrary assignment of the preferential list on raw materials and the curtailment of fuel in nonessential industries will probably free a great body of labor not now amenable to the draft.

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PICKED U. S. TROOPS SOON TO BE IN ITALY

Gen. Pershing Sends Regiments with Foch's Approval.

WEST FRONT IS SAFE Allied Offensive on Extremes of Lines Is Predicted.

American troops will be marched in review before Italy's leaders within a very short time. The contingent will be made up of picked regiments, brigaded under the personal direction of Gen. Pershing, who has selected the men after consultation with Gen. Foch and British leaders.

The sending of American soldiers to the Italian front is generally considered here as indicating that for the present Gen. Foch has ample reserves in France to meet any German offensive. Military leaders have declined to state the exact strength of Gen. Foch's reserves, but they say a general in command of operations on a front of the extent of that held by Gen. Foch must needs have at least 500,000 men in reserve; it is the part of wisdom to have 750,000 in reserve if possible.

Move Is Significant. In view of the failure of the German offensive to achieve decisive results, it is not surprising that the enemy's power is now rapidly declining, the news that the American soldiers are bound for Italy is highly significant of the military situation on the Western front.

In military circles here, there is no hint that American forces are expected to play a major part in the operations on the Italian front. Their chief purpose is to show the Italian armies and the Austrians that American forces are now on every front and that the United States is determined to give aid at every point and in support of every ally. The fact that American ambulances and a squadron of American aviators have gone to the Italian front clearly indicates that American forces will be given a sector of the battle line. The general belief here is that the Americans will be placed in the mountain region.

It has been known for some time that the Italian public has been expressing an opinion that the Americans are to be sent to the Italian front. The general belief here is that the Americans will be placed in the mountain region.

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ATTACK ON RHEIMS REPULSED; AUSTRIA IS HELD FIRMLY BY ITALY;

U. S. TO DECLARE WAR ON TURKEY? Envoys Cables Report of Sacking American Hospital in Persia

Tardieu Analyzes Compiegne Fiasco Of German Horde

Andre Tardieu, French High Commissioner to the United States, now in Paris, elaborates his statement called Tuesday, showing the failure of the German drive against Compiegne, in which the enemy losses were more than 80,000 men for the twenty divisions engaged. The fact, Tardieu cited as making the attempt most costly one. In addition he cited yesterday further elements in the analysis of what he regards as one of the most costly fiascos of the war.

"Paris was the object of the German attack. Orders provided for the occupation of Compiegne."

"On certain reconquered sectors 300 to 500 dead Germans on a regimental front were counted."

"The best German troops, guards and chasseurs divisions were engaged under the best general, Von Hutier."

"A new attack is certain. We are ready."

At only one point, east of Rheims, were they able to make any inroads into the French lines, and these they were quickly thrown out by energetic counter thrusts. It was not a drive in the accepted sense of that term, but it might well have developed into one had not the Allies presented such brilliant defense.

The Berlin day report, speaking of "fire attacks" on Rheims, claimed fifty prisoners. The night bulletin had "nothing to report." It was one of the most costly experiments the Crown Prince has made this year.

Italy Holds Firmly. On the Italian front, the fifth day of the Austrian-Hungarian offensive brought no gains of great consequence to the enemy, and generally brightened things for the Italians and their allies. Tuesday night, the situation looked a bit precarious; the Austrians had admittedly added to their gains at Udine and to the southward, around Capo Sile. Yesterday's fighting was, therefore, watched with a note of anxiety. But again the defense surpassed expectations. Several Austrian units were checked practically at along the line. The Italians and their comrades in arms brought the total of Austrian prisoners up to nearly 16,000.

Vienna's Mild Claims. All that Vienna counts officially claim as the crossing of the Fossalta Canal by Borovick's left wing, and the repulse of "violent" Italian attacks along the Fossalta middle course, on both sides of the Oderzetta.

The crossing of the Fossalta Canal adds somewhat to the outflanking menace to the Italian-French line, but unless it can be sustained, the Austrian advance forces (that are operating in the sector now, and unless much greater progress is made, Gen. Diaz's line remains secure, and the Austrian advance, on the small piece, can only serve the Italian object to make the invader exhaust himself without gaining really strategic advantages.

The foregoing shows that the Germans did not renew their attacks on Rheims during the day.

GERMAN. Berlin, via London, June 19.—"We directed five attacks against Rheims, and took fifty prisoners," says today's war office announcement dealing with yesterday's operations. French attacks northeast of Villers-Cotterets failed to report asserts.

Hostile attacks northwest of Chaumont-Thierry (where Americans are fighting) were repulsed, the statement says. French attempts to press the Germans back